

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 175426
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15
/051 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:CWSCHALLER
APPROVED BY EUR/NE - RWOODS
EUR/P - WGEHRON (SUBS)
C - IWOLF (SUBS)

-----096134 271426Z /42

R 271337Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS STATE 175426

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, EI, UK

SUBJECT: MEDIA STORIES ON POSSIBLE USG NORTHERN IRELAND
INITIATIVE

FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT WHITE HOUSE PRESS CONFER-
ENCE JULY 25:

QUOTE:

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ON THE LONDON TIMES STORY
YESTERDAY CONCERNING POSSIBLE INTERVENTION IN THE
NORTHERN IRELAND PROBLEM?

MR. GRANUM: SECRETARY VANCE MET SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, ON
JUNE 9TH, WITH SENATORS KENNEDY AND MOYNIHAN AND SPEAKER
O'NEILL TO DISCUSS THE NORTH IRELAND SITUATION. ALL AGREED
THAT A SOLUTION THERE MUST COME FROM THE PARTIES DIRECTLY
CONCERNED, BUT THAT THE US SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER WE MIGHT
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PAGE 02 STATE 175426

BE HELPFUL IN SOME WAY.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO THIS, NO
DEFINITE CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED. WHEN THEY ARE,
THEY WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE NSC FOR CONSIDERATION.

Q: CAN YOU REPEAT AFTER "ALL CONCERNED"; WHAT DID YOU SAY?

Q: THE US SHOULD CONSIDER WHAT?

MR. GRANUM: ALL AGREED THAT A SOLUTION THERE MUST COME FROM THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED, BUT THAT THE US SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER WE MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN SOME WAY.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO THIS. NO DEFINITE CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED. WHEN THEY ARE, THEY WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE NSC FOR CONSIDERATION.

Q: REX, MAY I ASK YOU, WHAT IS THE LEGAL BASIS ON WHICH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SEEKS TO INTERFERE AND INTERCEDE IN GOVERNMENTS OVERSEAS LIKE RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA, AND IRELAND? WHAT IS THE LEGAL BASIS?

MR. GRANUM: I AM NOT SURE I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE REFERRING TO, SARAH.

Q: DO WE HAVE ANY LEGAL RIGHT TO DO THIS? ANY LEGAL BASIS AT ALL IN OUR CONSTITUTION, OUR REGULATIONS, OUR GOVERNMENT ANYWHERE?

MR. GRANUM: WE JUST HAVE A BASIC CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD. THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 175426

GROWS OUT OF THAT CONCERN.

Q: THERE IS CONCERN APPARENT WHEN YOU HAVE THIS MEETING LIKE YOU DID HERE THE OTHER DAY WITH THE BRITISH MAN AND DECIDED WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO DO IN ANOTHER COUNTRY? DO WE HAVE ANY RIGHT TO DO THAT?

MR. GRANUM: YES, WE DO.

Q: WHAT IS IT, WHERE IS IT STATED?

MR. GRANUM: I DON'T KNOW THAT IT IS WRITTEN DOWN ANYWHERE.

Q: BUT YOUR ANSWER-- ARE YOU ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THEY ARE INTERFERING IN THOSE COUNTRIES?

MR. GRANUM: I AM NOT SUBSCRIBING TO THE STATEMENT OF INTERFERENCE, BUT THE QUESTION AT LEAST AS I AM TAKING IT, AND THE QUESTION I AM ANSWERING IS A DISCUSSION ON THE PART OF THIS COUNTRY OF WHAT IT FEELS, WHAT IT WOULD LIKE TO SEE TAKE PLACE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. WE DO HAVE

THAT.

Q: COULD I ASK A LITTLE ON THIS QUESTION: WAS THE PRESIDENT A PARTY TO THIS; THAT IS, DOES HE AGREE WITH THE STATEMENT; CAN WE SAY THE PRESIDENT AGREED THAT ALL AGREED; YOU SAY ALL AGREED, THAT INCLUDES THE PRESIDENT AS WELL?

MR. GRANUM: ON WHAT?

Q: ON THE SOLUTION ON NORTHERN IRELAND?

MR. GRANUM: NO, I DIDN'T MENTION THE PRESIDENT AT ALL. IT WAS A MEETING BETWEEN VANCE, O'NEILL, KENNEDY, UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 175426

MOYNIHAN, THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT --

Q: WOULDN'T ANYTHING WE DO IN THE AREA OF YOUR PHRASE WHETHER WE MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN SOME WAY FALL IN THE CATEGORY OF INTERNAL INTERFERENCE IN WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A BRITISH HOME PROBLEM? IF THE UNITED STATES WERE HELPFUL IN ANY WAY IN A SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND, WOULDN'T THAT BE MEDDLING INTO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, SUCH AS IT IS THESE DAYS, GREAT BRITAIN? AND NORTHERN IRELAND?

IF THE UNITED STATES WAS HELPFUL IN ANY WAY AT ALL, WOULDN'T THAT BE INTERFERENCE IN GREAT BRITAIN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS?

MR. GRANUM: I THINK WE JUST NEED TO SEE THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY ATTEMPTED TO BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE. THE POINT OF THE ANSWER WHICH I HAVE GIVEN YOU IS -- OF COURSE, IT SEEMS FROM THE STORY, I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO WHAT THE STORY STATES, BUT IN ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION. THE WHOLE POINT IS THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAS HELD A MEETING WITH THESE LEADERS.

Q: AT THEIR REQUEST?

MR. GRANUM: I DON'T KNOW WHOSE REQUEST.

MR. SCHECTER: I THINK SO, YES.

Q: WHAT IS THE POINT OF VIEW ABOUT IT, REX? IT IS THEIR COUNTRY AT THE MOMENT, ANYWAY.

MR. GRANUM: I COULDN'T TELL YOU. I AM JUST TRYING TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 STATE 175426

RELATE TO YOU THAT THEY HAD THIS MEETING ON THE PROBLEM

WHICH THEY ARE ALL CONCERNED ABOUT, AND THE STATE
DEPARTMENT IS REVIEWING MANY DISCUSSIONS WHICH MAY
HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT THAT MEETING. END QUOTE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE175426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CWSCHALLER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770269-0201
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770713/aaaaakyu.tel
Line Count: 180
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2508f762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1732523
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA STORIES ON POSSIBLE USG NORTHERN IRELAND INITIATIVE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT WHITE HOUSE
PRESS
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, EI, UK
To: DUBLIN LONDON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2508f762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009